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5/22/2025 12:12 pm

U.S. DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK LONG ISLAND OFFICE

ORDER TO **SHOW CAUSE**

22-CR-429 (JMA)(AYS)

Defendants. **AZRACK, United States District Judge:**

The Government's April 30, 2025 letter discussed, for the first time, specific charges that have been brought against Defendant Vladimir Antonio Arevalo-Chavez ("Defendant") in El Salvador. (ECF No. 170). The Government's April 30, 2025 letter also asserted that sealing was warranted because—in addition to the bases for sealing previously asserted by the Government the Government's April 30, 2025 letter discusses "the details of charges pending against the defendant in a foreign country, which may not have been made public there." (ECF No. 170 at 4 (emphasis added).) The Government also asserted that, "in an abundance of caution," sealing was warranted "to protect the integrity of the foreign prosecutions." (Id.) The Government subsequently provided certain documents to the Court and, in those filings, reasserted the above grounds for sealing. (See ECF Nos. 173, 175.)

Because the Government's April 30, 2025 letter discussed the details of specific charges for the first time (and was filed after the Court's April 14, 2025 Order to Show Cause), the Court grants the Government an additional opportunity to explain why ECF Nos. 170, 173, 174, and 175 should not be unsealed.

The Government's argument that the "details" about these charges in its recent filings warrant sealing raises certain questions. The Court directs the Government to address the issues set out below.

First, the Government's letters are vague as to whether or not the details of the charges and the related documents provided as exhibits are publicly available in El Salvador or elsewhere. It is difficult to see how the details of these charges could possibly warrant continued sealing when the Government does not even know if the charges and documents at issue "have been made public" in El Salvador.

Second, the Government's April 30 letter states that "the INTERPOL RED Notice for the defendant" is publicly available. (ECF No. 170 at 2.) As such, there appears to be no reason to seal the INTERPOL Red Notice (or any references to the notice in the Government's filings). The

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public availability of the INTERPOL Red Notice would also appear to weigh against sealing

documents or information concerning the underlying charge referenced in the INTERPOL Red

Notice.

Third, it is difficult to see how public disclosure of the details of the charges contained in

the Government's filings (or the documents provided as exhibits) would impair the "integrity of

the foreign prosecutions" when Defendant himself has already been provided with this information

and these documents through the instant proceeding. If the charges against other defendants named

in the exhibits are not public, the Government can request that the exhibits be redacted.

SO ORDERED.

Dated: May 22, 2025

Central Islip, New York

/s/ (JMA)

JOAN M. AZRACK

UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE